GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3004
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2015
National Policy on Waterways
Antony Shri Anto ;Maragatham Smt. K.

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated a National Policy on Waterways and if so, the details and the salient features of the said policy;
(b) whether the Government proposes to declare more inland waterways in the country and if so, the details thereof;
(c)whether the Government has received any proposal from the State of Kerala to declare more inland waterways and if so, the details and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
(d) whether the Government has asked the State Governments to join hands in developing 101 waterways likely to be declared national waterways as part of an initiative to make the vast network ready for business and if so, the details thereof; and
(e) whether only five waterways have been declared as national waterways in the past thirty years and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
(SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN)

(a) The Government is committed to develop Inland Water Transport as a cost effective, environment friendly and fuel efficient mode of transport, especially for bulk goods and over dimensional cargo, wherever it is techno-economically feasible.
(b) Yes, Madam. A proposal for declaration of 106 new National Waterways as in the National Waterway Bill, 2015 is under consideration of the Parliament.
(c) Yes, Madam. As per request received from the Government of Kerala the waterways namely, AVM Canal, Alappuzha-Changanassery Canal, Alappuzha- Kottayam − Athirampuzha Canal, Kottayam-Vaikom Canal and Extension of West Coast Canal have been included in the list of 106 proposed new inland National Waterways.
(d) After declaration of above mentioned new waterways as National Waterways, action will be taken in consultation with the respective State Governments for development of these waterways for navigation purpose in terms of land acquisition, widening of navigational channel, dumping of dredge spoil, setting up of infrastructure facilities along the bank for loading/ unloading of cargo etc. and in other development activities depending on expertise available with them. Their views have already been obtained while introducing the National Waterways Bill, 2015 in the Parliament.
(e) Yes, Madam. The five waterways, declared as National Waterways are as under:
(i) Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system (Allahabad-Haldia-1620 km) as NW-1.
(ii) River Brahmaputra (Dhubri-Sadiya − 891 km) as NW-2.
(iii) West Coast Canal (Kottapuram-Kollam) along with Udyogmandal and Champakara Canals − (205 km) as NW-3.
(iv) Kakinada- Puducherry canals along with Godavari and Krishna rivers (1078 km) as NW-4.
(v) East Coast Canal integrated with Brahmaniriver and Mahanadi delta rivers (588 km) as NW-5.

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